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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,351	01/31/2001	Daniel H. Maes	00.22US	5974
7590	12/28/2004		EXAMINER	
			JIANG, SHAOJIA ANNA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1617	

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Advisory Action</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/773,351	MAES ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Shaojia A. Jiang	1617

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

THE REPLY FILED 10 December 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

**PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]**

- a)  The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b)  The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

- 1.  A Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_\_. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
- 2.  The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
  - (a)  they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
  - (b)  they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
  - (c)  they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
  - (d)  they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_.

- 3.  Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4.  Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
- 5.  The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: see attachment.
- 6.  The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
- 7.  For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: none.

Claim(s) objected to: none.

Claim(s) rejected: 1 and 3-20.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: none.

- 8.  The drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

- 9.  Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.

- 10.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*SAG/12/23/04*  
SHAOJIA A. JIANG  
PATENT EXAMINER

***Advisory Action***

This Office Action is a response to Applicant's proposed amendment and response after FINAL filed on December 10, 2004.

5. All rejections of record in the Final Office Action September 10, 2004 are maintained.

Applicant's remarks filed on December 10, 2004 after FINAL with respect to the rejection of Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 11 and 18 made under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ribier et al. (5,925,364,) in view of Sebag et al.(5,411,742) have been fully considered but are unpersuasive as discussed in the Final Rejection.

Applicant's remarks filed on December 10, 2004 after FINAL with respect to the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-9 made under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ribier et al. (5,650,166) have been fully considered but are unpersuasive as discussed in the Final Rejection.

Applicant's remarks filed on December 10, 2004 after FINAL with respect to the rejection of Claims 13-20 made under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ribier et al. (5,650,166) have been fully considered but are unpersuasive as discussed in the Final Rejection.

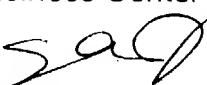
Applicant's remarks filed on December 10, 2004 after FINAL with respect to the rejection of Claims 10-12 and 20 made under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ribier et al. (5,650,166) further in view of Subbiah (6,150,381) and Ichinose et al. (5,702,691) have been fully considered but are unpersuasive as discussed in the Final Rejection.

Applicant's remarks filed on December 10, 2004 after FINAL with respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 3-20 made provisionally under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-21 of copending Application No. 10/424,616 have been fully considered but are unpersuasive as discussed in the Final Rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Jiang, whose telephone number is (571)272-0627. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreenivasan Padmanabhan, Ph.D., can be reached on (571)272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
S. Anna Jiang, Ph.D.  
Primary Examiner, AU 1617  
December 23, 2004